

REMARKS

After entry of this Amendment, claims 10-27 are pending in the application. Claim 10 has been amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claims 19-27 have been added in this Amendment. Reconsideration of the application as amended is requested.

In the Office Action dated September 4, 2003, claims 10-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The Examiner pointed out specific objections to claim 10, line 3 through 7, 9, and 10 requiring correction. Claim 10 has been carefully reviewed and amended to address the problems identified by the Patent Examiner in claim 10 in order to correct inaccuracies, provide proper antecedent basis, and to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The Examiner indicated that claims 10-18 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. It is submitted that this Amendment places claims 10-18 in suitable condition for allowance. Reconsideration of claims 10-18 is requested.

Claims 19-27 have been added in this Amendment. Claims 19-27 set forth the same invention as recited in claims 10-18 while being drafted to present the claimed subject matter with idiomatic English and in a format more closely aligned with traditional U.S. Patent Office practice. It is believed that claims 19-27 are allowable over the prior art of record. The Examiner's consideration of new claims 19-27 is requested.

It is respectfully submitted that this Amendment traverses and overcomes all of the Examiner's objections and rejections to the application as originally filed. It is further submitted that this Amendment has antecedent basis in the application as originally filed, including the specification, claims and drawings, and that this Amendment does not add any new subject matter to the application. Reconsideration of the application as amended is requested. It is respectfully

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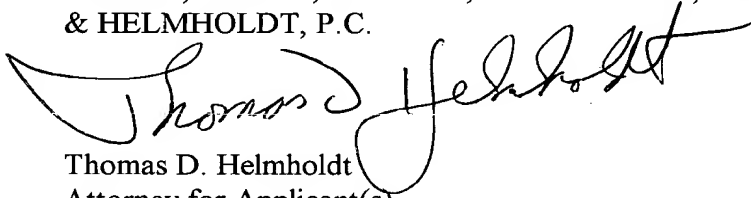
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submitted that this Amendment places the application in suitable condition for allowance; notice of which is requested.

If the Examiner feels that prosecution of the present application can be expedited by way of an Examiner's amendment, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicant's attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG, BASILE, HANLON, MacFARLANE, WOOD
& HELMHOLDT, P.C.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas D. Helmholdt", is written over the printed name and title.

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